

Wisconsin's forest products industry



Forest products in Wisconsin contribute significantly to the economy accounting for 12% of the value of all shipments, as well as 14% of jobs and 13% of wages in the manufacturing sector. The paper industry alone ranks second out of 65 manufacturing industries.

There are over 66,000 employees employed in this sector (mostly in paper manufacturing) and 1,427 establishments. The average wage is \$44,100 and total wages contribute \$3.5 billion per year.

This industry has not fared well in recent years. Since 2005, the number of employees has decreased for all sectors. In addition, the number of establishments as well as the average wage has decreased for all sectors except wood furniture manufacturing.

- [*How much does the forest products industry contribute to the state economy?*](#)
Value of shipments and capital expenditures by industry
- [*How many people work for the forest products industry?*](#)
Number of employees by industry: 2002 to present
- [*How much money do employees in the forest products industry make?*](#)
Average annual wage: 2002 to present
- [*How many businesses make up the forest products industry?*](#)
Number of establishments by industry: 2002 to present
- [*How much do forest products' wages contribute overall?*](#)
Total wages by industry: 2002 to present

“How much does the forest products industry contribute to the state economy?”

Value of shipments and capital expenditures by industry



Wisconsin's forest products industries contribute significantly to the economy, 12% of the value of shipments and 17% of all capital expenditures in the manufacturing sector.

The paper industry is a very significant contributor, ranking second out of 65 manufacturing industries in the state for value of shipments and capital expenditures.

Industry	Total value of shipments (\$1,000)	Rank	Total capital expenditures (\$1,000)	Rank	Cost of materials (\$1,000,000)	Value added (\$1,000,000)
Pulp, paper, & paperboard mills	7,501,215	2	360,348	2	-	-
Converted paper product mfg	5,772,264	6	206,211	4	-	-
Other wood product mfg	3,821,844	12	85,954	12	-	-
Total forest products industry	17,095,323	-	652,513	-	\$10,438	\$1,208
Total all manufacturing	144,243,851	-	3,902,823	-	\$77,895	\$67,117
Percent of total manufacturing	11.9%	-	16.7%	-	13.4%	1.8%

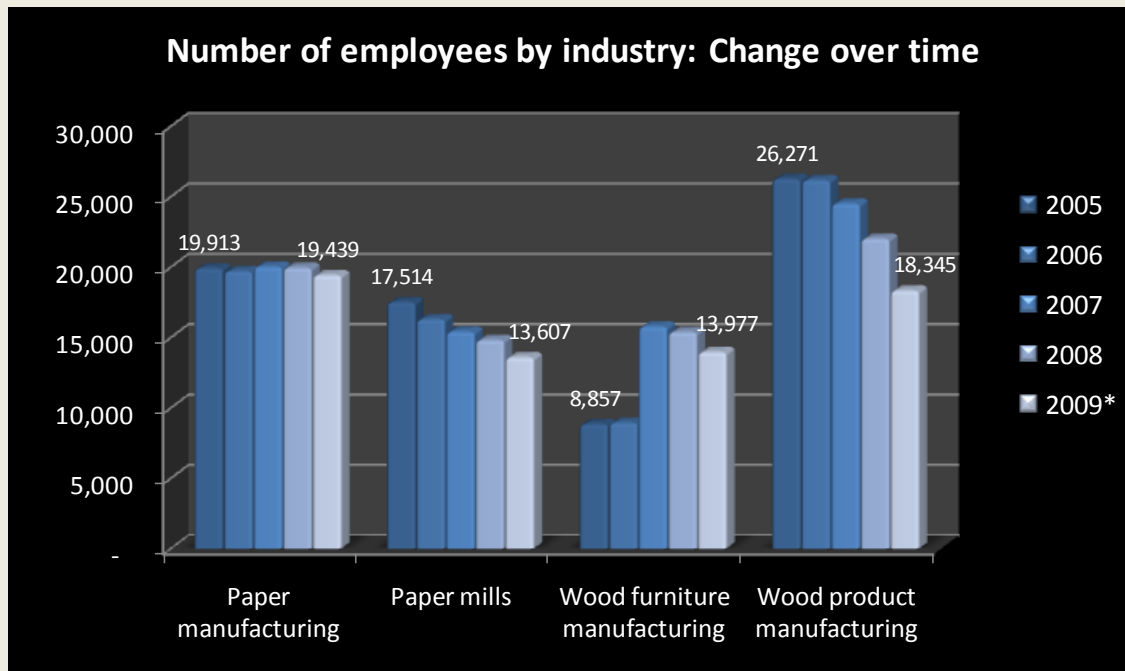
Source: Roger M. Nacker, President, Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc., 10 East Doty Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703-3397

"How many people work for the forest products industry?"

Number of employees by industry: 2002 to present

Wisconsin has over **66,000 employees** in the forest products industry (including logging and forestry support activities). Over half of these jobs are in paper mills and manufacturing. Forest products jobs make up about **14% of all manufacturing jobs**.

The number of employees working in the forest products industry has decreased 20% since 2002, 46% for paper mills and 8% in paper manufacturing.



* 2009 data based on first quarter only

Source: WORKnet, Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

Number of employees by forest products industry

Industry	Number of employees
Converted Paper Product Manufacturing	19,439
Wood furniture manufacturing	13,977
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	13,687
Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Mills	13,607
Veneer and Engineered Wood Products	2,363
Sawmills and Wood Preservation	2,295
Logging	745
Support Activities for Forestry	97
Total	66,210

Source: WORKnet, Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

"How much money do employees in the forest products industry make?"

Average annual wage: 2002 to present



The average wage for forest products employees is over **\$44,100 a year**. This is about average for manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin and about 26% higher than the average wage for all industries combined.

Wages (adjusted for inflation) have increased for wood furniture manufacturing but decreased in all other sectors since 2005.



Average annual wage by forest products industry

Industry	Average annual wage
Converted Paper Product Mfg	\$50,232
Wood Furniture Mfg	\$39,416
Other Wood Product Mfg	\$29,952
Pulp, Paper, & Paperboard Mills	\$61,360
Veneer & Engineered Wood Products	\$33,852
Sawmills and Wood Preservation	\$29,276
Logging	\$29,692
Support Activities for Forestry	\$50,700
Total	\$44,124

* 2009 data based on first quarter only

Source: WORKnet, Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

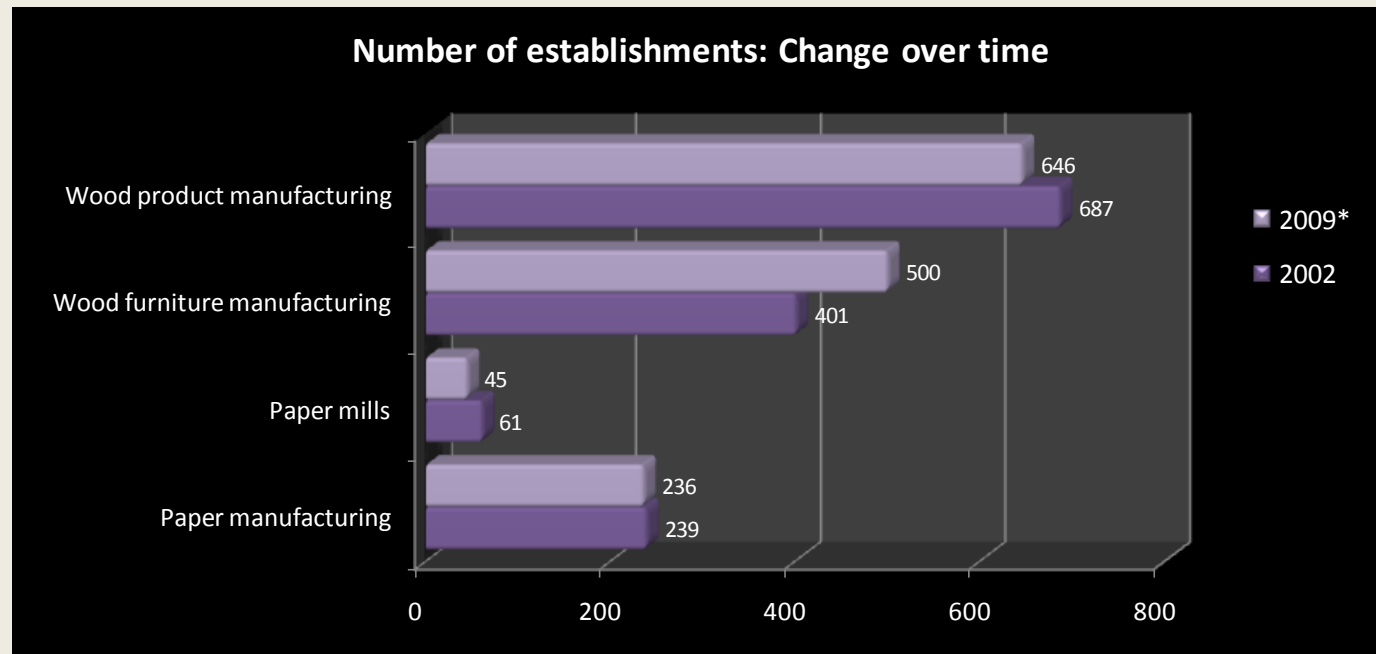
"How many businesses make up the forest products industry?"

Number of establishments by industry: 2002 to present



In 2009, there were about **1,427 establishments** in the forest products industry with another 285 in the logging and forestry support sectors. Combined, these account for 13.5% of all businesses in Wisconsin.

The number of establishments remained fairly stable between 2002 and 2009 with the greatest percentage loss occurring in the number of paper mills, from 61 establishments in 2002 to 45 in 2009, a loss of 26%. The number of companies in wood furniture manufacturing increased by 25% over the same period.



* 2009 data based on first quarter only

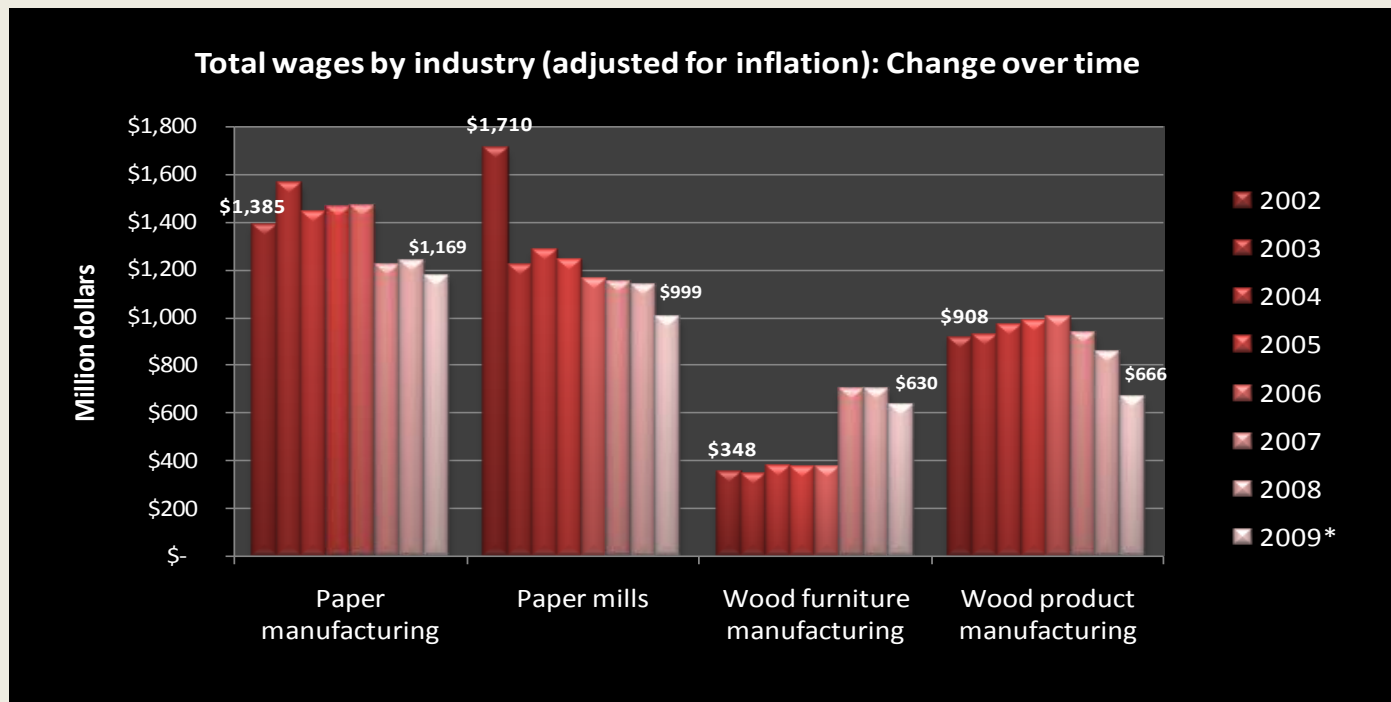
Source: WORKnet, Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

“How much do forest product industry wages contribute to our economy?”

Total wages by industry: 2002 to present

Overall, the forest products industry contributes about \$3.46 billion per year in wages to the Wisconsin economy. This amounts to approximately 13% of all manufacturing wages in Wisconsin.

Since 2002, total wages for the industry have decreased 20% (adjusted for inflation). Paper mills have been the largest contributor to this decline, from \$1.7 billion in 2002 to less than \$1 billion in 2009, a decrease of 42%. Total wages for the wood furniture manufacturing sector has increased by 81% in the same period.



* 2009 data based on first quarter only

Source: WORKnet, Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>